



# CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UPDATE

## **UPDATE ON SEWER MAIN BREAK IN RIO VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD**

**December 11, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

Crews continue to make progress addressing a 54-inch sewer main break, located on Ponce de Leon Drive between SE 9 Avenue and SE 12 Way in the Rio Vista neighborhood.

A two-part plan is being implemented to prevent discharge from entering the Tarpon River. A berm is being built that will surround the immediate area of the pipe break to contain the flow. The berm is expected to be completed tomorrow and, once in place, will allow workers to install an alternative bypass system to move discharge from the contained area directly to a nearby manhole, which will then carry it to the G.T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant.

While workers continue to construct the berm and bypass system, dewatering activities will continue using 16 trucks to transport sewer water from the site to the wastewater treatment plant. The City is working closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and providing the agency with regular updates.

The pipe repair contractor conducted digging in the area around the pipe break today to assess the type and size of the pipe as well as obtain specific measurements. The contractor has determined that the pipe is made of cast iron and is working with a vendor to procure the proper parts and equipment that will be needed to make the repair. The repair will consist of installing two valves on each side of the damaged section of pipe and a bypass line to route the flow around the damaged area. Once the bypass is in place, the damaged portion of pipe can be replaced with a new section.

This is a complicated repair that will require the parts and equipment to be on site before the area of the pipe where the break occurred can be exposed. Crews have to be very careful when digging in the immediate area of the break to guard against the risk of a possible ground collapse or rupture which could potentially exacerbate the situation. The repair process is expected to take approximately 5-7 days as some parts may need to be manufactured to specific dimensions.

Other operations taking place today include deploying three aerators which are expected to be in place later this evening and an additional six aerators that will be installed tomorrow. The use of aerators in the Tarpon River will help improve water quality by improving the oxygen levels in the water, increasing circulation, breaking down organic matter in the discharge, and helping to control odor. Beginning tomorrow, vessels will be deployed on the Tarpon River for skimming activities and removing debris from the surface of the water.

An environmental contractor began cleanup and remediation work today in the affected area, focusing on treating and disinfecting hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, and driveways. The contractor will also treat sod and grass areas and conduct odor control activities. The contractor will be on site daily until the remediation is complete.

Ponce de Leon Drive will remain closed between SE 9 Avenue and SE 12 Way while the work progresses.

A precautionary advisory for water-related recreational activities remains in place for the waterways surrounding and adjacent to the affected area. To view a map of the impacted area, please visit <http://bit.ly/2LLTeNb>.

We understand the tremendous inconvenience and hardship this is causing in the Rio Vista neighborhood and we appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to work to address the situation.

###